

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2011

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Democratic Whip  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Clyburn  
Assistant Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Larson  
Democratic Caucus Chair  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Democratic Leaders:

Congress will soon be required to vote on whether to extend the debt limit which, according to Secretary Geithner, will be breached by mid-May.

We ask you to convene a caucus to discuss and establish a Democratic position in favor of a clean extension of the debt ceiling.

The debt ceiling vote is about one thing: affirming that America pays its bills. It does not authorize new taxpayer obligations; it affirms to the world our commitment to pay obligations already incurred.

To do otherwise, or to threaten to do so, or to leverage our duty to pay our bills to achieve a partisan advantage in budget disputes, jeopardizes the full faith and credit of the United States of America.

Sincerely,



PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress



LLOYD DOGGETT  
Member of Congress

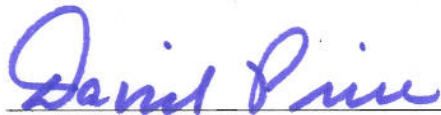


EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress

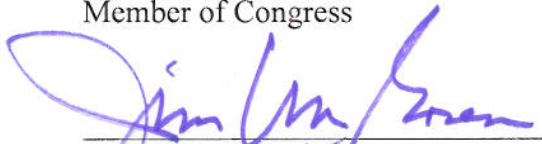


RUSH HOLT  
Member of Congress





DAVID E. PRICE  
Member of Congress



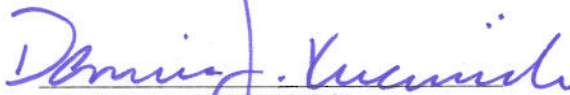
JAMES P. MCGOVERN  
Member of Congress



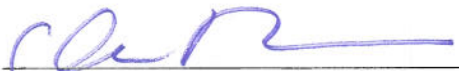
JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.  
Member of Congress



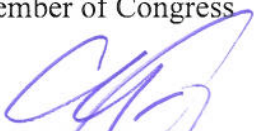
JAY INSLEE  
Member of Congress



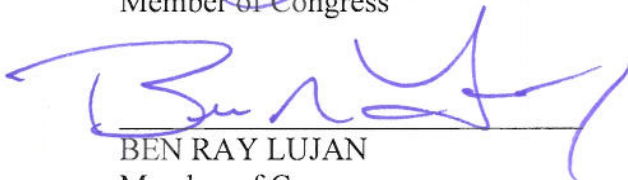
DENNIS J. KUCINICH  
Member of Congress



CHELLIE PINGREE  
Member of Congress



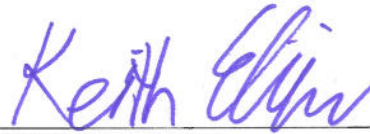
ANDRE CARSON  
Member of Congress



BEN RAY LUJAN  
Member of Congress



JIM MCDERMOTT  
Member of Congress



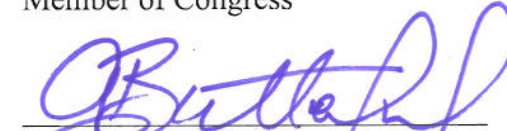
KEITH ELLISON  
Member of Congress



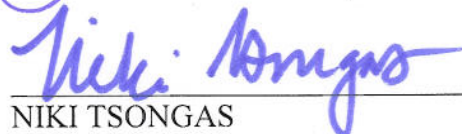
PAUL TONKO  
Member of Congress



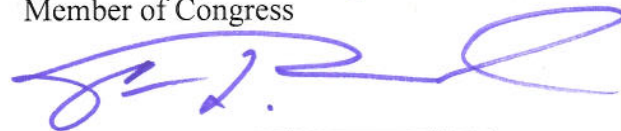
STEVE COHEN  
Member of Congress



G.K. BUTTERFIELD  
Member of Congress



NIKI TSONGAS  
Member of Congress



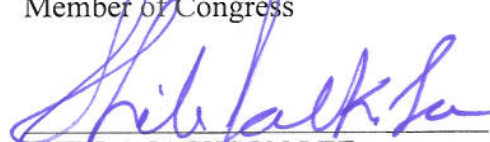
CEDRIC L. RICHMOND  
Member of Congress



BOB FILNER  
Member of Congress

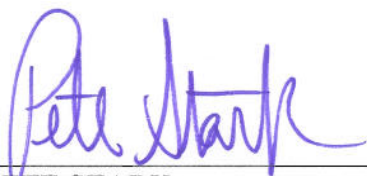


MAZIE K. HIRONO  
Member of Congress

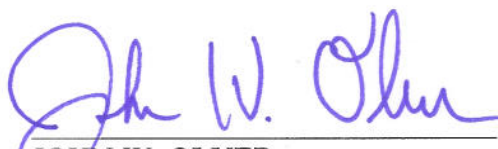


SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
Member of Congress





PETE STARK  
Member of Congress



JOHN W. OLVER  
Member of Congress



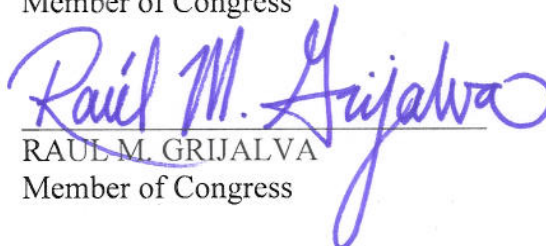
YVETTE D. CLARKE  
Member of Congress



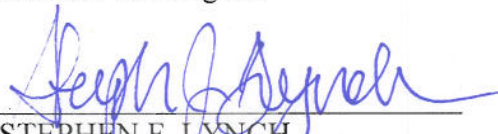
GREGORY W. MEEKS  
Member of Congress



DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN  
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA  
Member of Congress



STEPHEN F. LYNCH  
Member of Congress



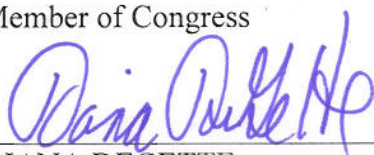
JOHN CONYERS  
Member of Congress



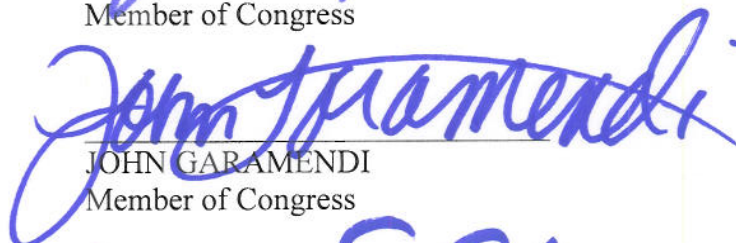
MICHAEL M. HONDA  
Member of Congress



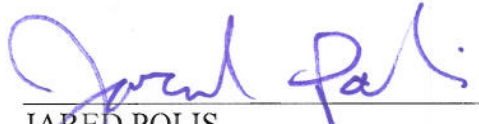
ZOE LOFGREN  
Member of Congress



DIANA DEGETTE  
Member of Congress




JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress



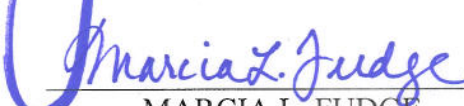
JARED POLIS  
Member of Congress



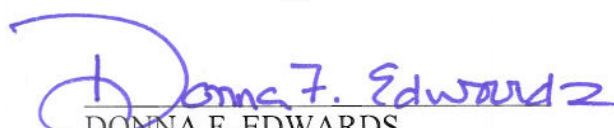
JAN D. SCHAKOWSKY  
Member of Congress



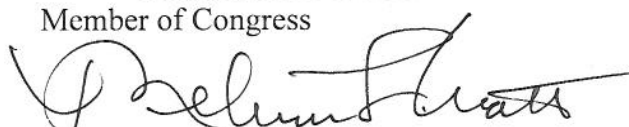
DAVID N. CICILLINE  
Member of Congress



MARCIA L. FUDGE  
Member of Congress

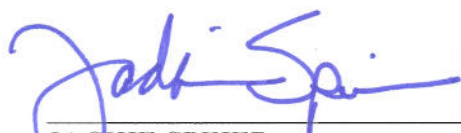


DONNA F. EDWARDS  
Member of Congress

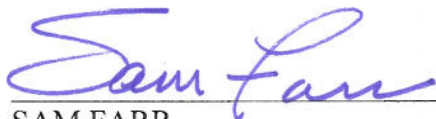


MELVIN L. WATT  
Member of Congress

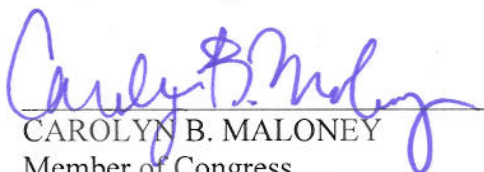




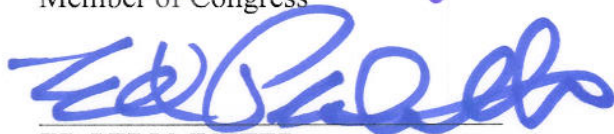
JACKIE SPEIER  
Member of Congress



SAM FARR  
Member of Congress



CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress



ED PERLMUTTER  
Member of Congress



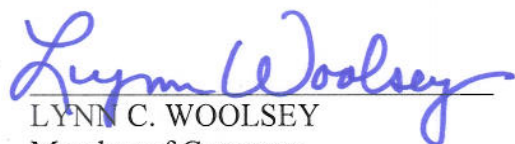
LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD  
Member of Congress



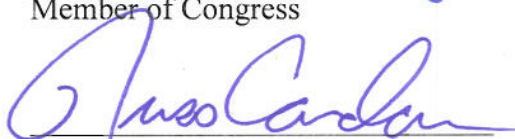
TED DEUTCH  
Member of Congress



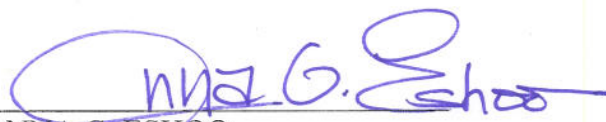
BETTY SUTTON  
Member of Congress



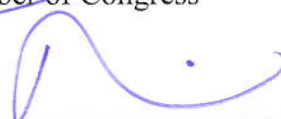
LYNN C. WOOLSEY  
Member of Congress




RUSS CARNAHAN  
Member of Congress



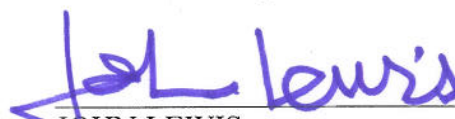
ANNA G. ESHOO  
Member of Congress



ANTHONY D. WEINER  
Member of Congress



MICHAEL F. DOYLE  
Member of Congress



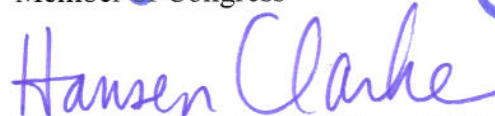
JOHN LEWIS  
Member of Congress



TAMMY BALDWIN  
Member of Congress



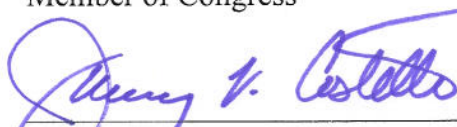
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS  
Member of Congress



HANSEN CLARKE  
Member of Congress



MIKE THOMPSON  
Member of Congress



JERRY F. COSTELLO  
Member of Congress





LINDA T. SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress



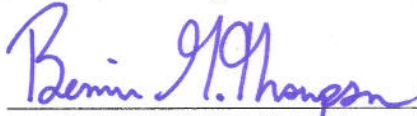
BOBBY C. SCOTT  
Member of Congress



BRAD SHERMAN  
Member of Congress



EMANUEL CLEAVER  
Member of Congress



BENNIE G. THOMPSON  
Member of Congress



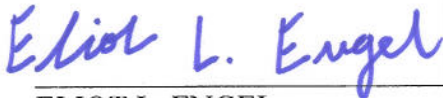
LUIS V. GUTIERREZ  
Member of Congress



HANK C. JOHNSON  
Member of Congress



NYDIA M. VELASQUEZ  
Member of Congress



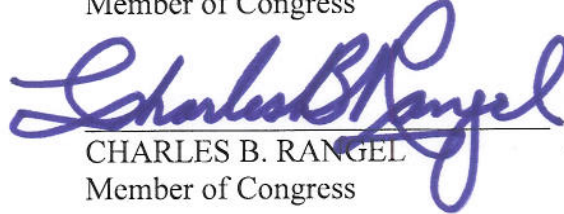
ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Member of Congress



DORIS O. MATSUI  
Member of Congress



CORRINE BROWN  
Member of Congress



CHARLES B. RANGEL  
Member of Congress



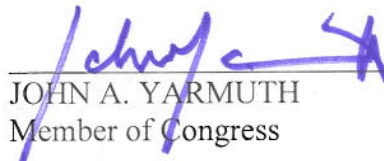
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON  
Member of Congress



HENRY A. WAXMAN  
Member of Congress



LEONARD L. BOSWELL  
Member of Congress



JOHN A. YARMUTH  
Member of Congress



MARK S. CRITZ  
Member of Congress

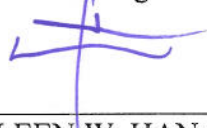


LOIS CAPPS  
Member of Congress





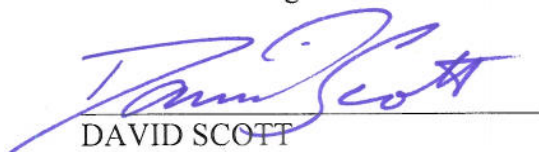
LAURA RICHARDSON  
Member of Congress



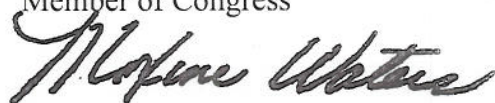
COLLEEN W. HANABUSA  
Member of Congress



NORMAN D. DICKS  
Member of Congress



DAVID SCOTT  
Member of Congress



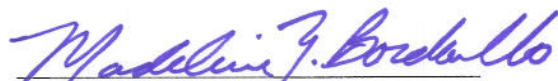
MAXINE WATERS  
Member of Congress



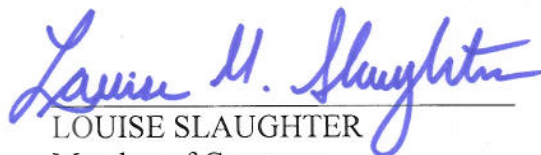
WILLIAM R. KEATING  
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON  
Member of Congress



MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO  
Member of Congress



LOUISE SLAUGHTER  
Member of Congress



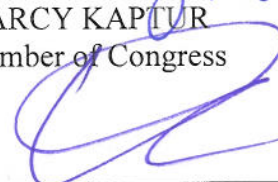
DANNY K. DAVIS  
Member of Congress



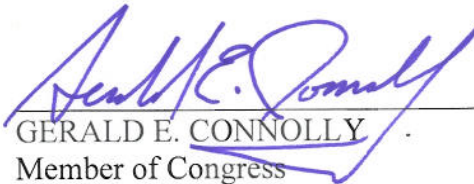
CHAKA FATTAH  
Member of Congress



MARCY KAPTUR  
Member of Congress



DAVID WU  
Member of Congress



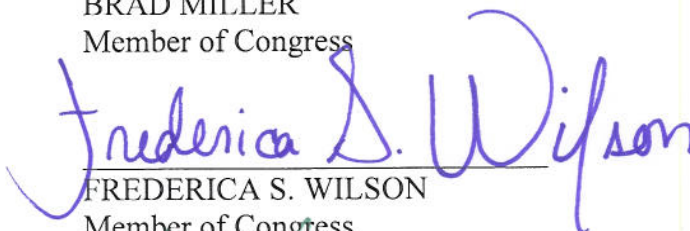
GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
Member of Congress



JOHN P. SARBANES  
Member of Congress



BRAD MILLER  
Member of Congress




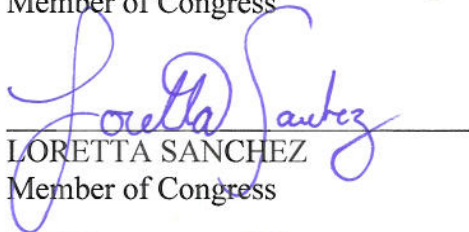
FREDERICA S. WILSON  
Member of Congress

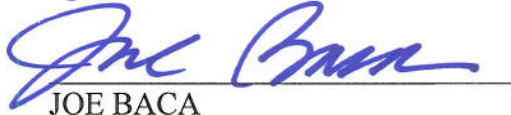



GENE GREEN  
Member of Congress

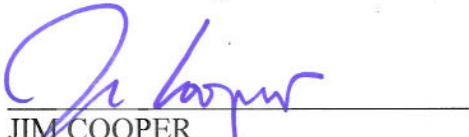


  
MAURICE D. HINCHEY  
Member of Congress

  
LORETTA SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress


  
JOE BACA  
Member of Congress

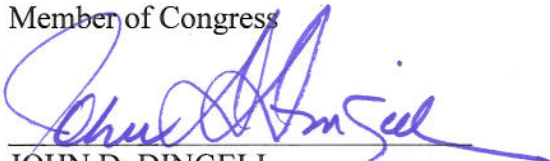
  
BARBARA LEE  
Member of Congress

  
JIM COOPER  
Member of Congress

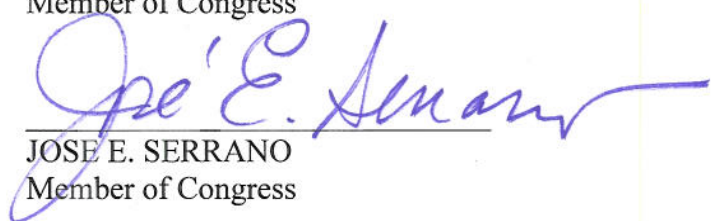
  
CAROLYN MCCARTHY  
Member of Congress

  
COLLIN C. PETERSON  
Member of Congress

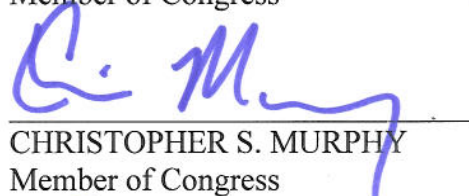
  
TERRI A. SEWELL  
Member of Congress


  
JOHN D. DINGELL  
Member of Congress


  
STEVE ISRAEL  
Member of Congress

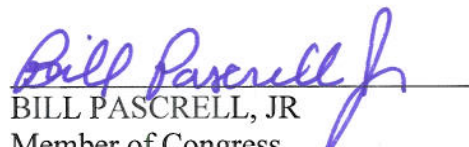
  
JOSE E. SERRANO  
Member of Congress

  
EDWARD J. MARKEY  
Member of Congress

  
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY  
Member of Congress

  
BOBBY L. RUSH  
Member of Congress


  
ALCEE L. HASTINGS  
Member of Congress

  
BILL PASCRELL, JR  
Member of Congress

  
PETER A. DEFAZIO  
Member of Congress

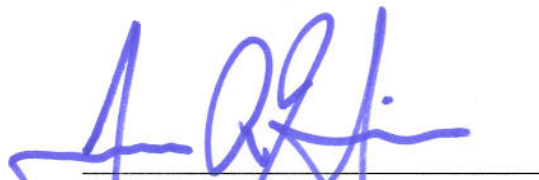
  
JAMES P. MORAN  
Member of Congress





---

TIM RYAN  
Member of Congress



---

JAMES A. HIMES  
Member of Congress